

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph starting on line 6 of page 1 of the specification as follows:

Cross reference is made to copending U.S. patent application ~~Serial No. _____~~ (Attorney Docket No. 265280-68188) Serial No. 10/058,508, entitled "Composite Prosthetic Bearing Constructed of Polyethylene and an Ethylene-Acrylate Copolymer and Method for Making the Same" by Richard King, Todd Smith, and Donald McNulty which is assigned to the same assignee as the present invention and which is filed concurrently herewith.

Please amend the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE as follows:

An implantable prosthetic bearing is constructed of a composite material having a first layer and second layer. The first layer has an articulating surface defined therein, whereas the second layer has a engaging surface defined therein for engaging either another prosthetic component or the bone itself. The first layer of the implantable prosthetic bearing is constructed of crosslinked polymer such as ~~UHMWPE~~ Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene, whereas the second layer of the implantable prosthetic bearing is constructed of polymer such as ~~UHMWPE~~ Ultra-High Molecular Weight Polyethylene that is either non-crosslinked or crosslinked to a lesser degree than the first layer. In such a manner, the first layer possesses mechanical properties which are advantageous in regard to the articulating surface (e.g., enhanced wear and oxidation resistance), whereas the second layer possesses mechanical properties which are advantageous in regard to the engaging surface (e.g., high ductility, toughness, and creep resistance). A method of making a prosthetic bearing is also disclosed.